



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Joseph Sforzo  
SERIAL NO.: 09/694,776  
FILED: October 23, 2000  
FOR: Computerized Method, Apparatus and System For Issuing Surety Bonds

Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia

RESPONSE

Initially, Applicant wished to point out that the Office Action dated August 6, 2004, was mailed to the wrong address. With the Amendment filed May 3, 2004, there was a change of address and there was a lengthy delay in obtaining the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Office Action dated August 8, 2004. The Examiner contends that the Amendment filed May 3, 2004, presents a new invention with distinct features not present in the original claims. Applicant traverses this rejection. There has been no restriction requirement in this application prior to the Office Action dated August 8, 2004. Therefore, there has been no non-elected species.

Original claim 1 was directed to a method of obtaining a bond from a surety using a computer network i.e. obtaining a surety bond over a computer network. New Claims 38, 44 to 45 are directed to a method of obtaining a surety bond over a computer network.

New Claims 39, 46 and 47 are directed to a method of obtaining a surety bond.

A computer network is an integral part of Claim 39. Original Claim 18 was